

*From Batman to Wonder Woman, Spider-Man to Superman, TV's superheroes have always taken us ...*

# UP, UP, AND AWA

LOOK, up in the sky. It's a bird, it's a plane ... it's a whole lot of human beings with super-human powers and really bad dress sense! Television's superheroes may have the ability to leap tall buildings in a single bound, but they are nearly always endowed with shocking hairstyles, flared trousers and a job that somehow hides their true identity. Well, somebody once said life wasn't meant to be easy, and things are never simple when you're a crime-fighting legend. Just look at how TV WEEK's Top 10 TV superheroes rate on the real-life scale.

## 1. SUPERMAN

Also known as: Clark Kent (played by George Reeves in *The Adventures Of Superman*, 1951-57, and now by Dean Cain in *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures Of Superman*). Occupation: Reporter for *The Daily Planet*. How he got to be a superhero: A refugee from the planet Krypton, the infant Superman was raised by Martha and Jonathan Kent. Coming from a planet with an atmosphere different from Earth's has given him powers that he uses to fight for truth, justice and the American Way.

● **The Man Of Steel (Dean Cain, above) definitely wins the best dressed superhero award.**

Powers: He has true super powers including X-ray vision, the ability to fly and more strength than all the Gladiators put together. His breath can freeze rivers and extinguish fires. But he can be disarmed by a hunk of Kryptonite from his home planet. Crime-fighting uniform: Blue tights and a red cape. Overall rating: 9/10. As long as he's played by Dean Cain and the lycra continues to defy gravity. Points deducted for: The fact that most people can't tell Clark Kent from Superman just because Clark wears glasses.

## 2. BATMAN

Also known as: Bruce Wayne (played by Adam West). Occupation: Millionaire playboy. How he got to be a superhero: Young Bruce Wayne witnesses a horrible crime in which his parents are killed. He vows to avenge his loss. Powers: Isn't really endowed with supernatural powers, but uses his obscene wealth to buy the best Batcontraptions around. His Batcave features

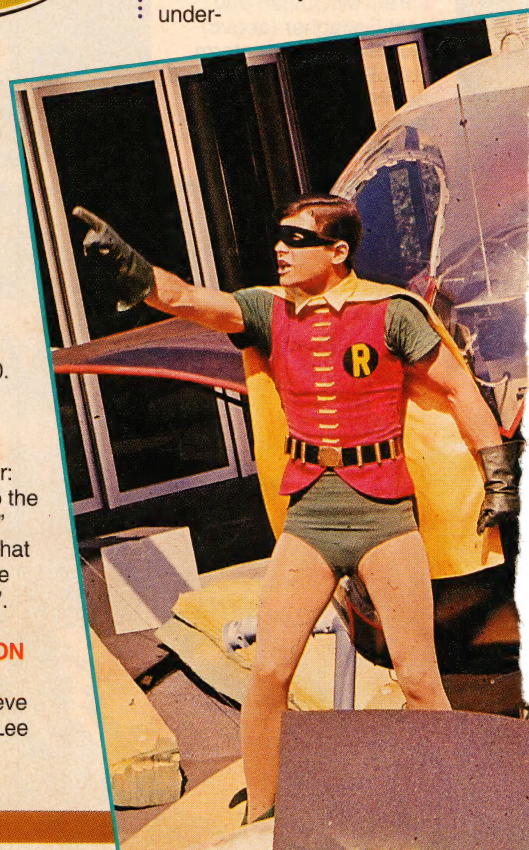
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the turbo-charged Batmobile, and somewhere in a hanger there sits the Batcopter. Crime-fighting uniform: Grey and black suit with Batcape, Batmask and nifty utility Batbelt. Overall rating: 7/10. Caped Crusaders really shouldn't be this camp. Points deducted for: Slavish devotion to the Tim "The Toolman" school of thinking that decrees, "The more gadgets the better".

## 3. THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN

Also known as: Steve Austin (played by Lee Majors).

Occupation: Astronaut. How he got to be a superhero: Steve was severely injured in a training accident but has been rebuilt (at the cost of \$6 million) with bionic bits and pieces. He has to work to pay off his debt to the U.S. Government by under-

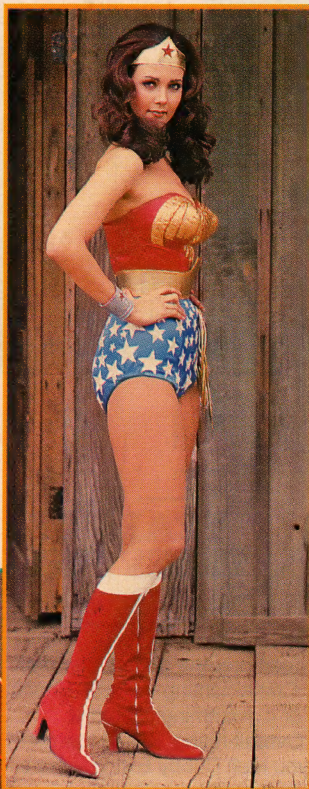






# Y!

● (Clockwise from above) Spider-Man does whatever a spider can; Bill Bixby and Lou Ferrigno teamed up as the Hulk; Wonder Woman's suit defied gravity; Batman and Robin.



taking missions for the Office of Strategic Information (OSI), run by Oscar Goldman.

Powers: His bionic legs, a bionic arm and bionic eye give him amazing speed, strength and telescopic vision.

Crime-fighting uniform:

Generally jeans, check shirts and the occasional safari suit.

Overall rating: 5/10. His clothes are too Seventies for words.

Points deducted for: The fact that he never felt the urge to put his bionic powers to good use in the Olympics and the fact that his bionic legs were hairy.

#### 4. THE BIONIC WOMAN

Also known as: Jaime Sommers (played by Lindsay Wagner).

Occupation: Schoolteacher.

How she got to be a superhero:

After a tragic skydiving accident, Jaime (a world-ranked tennis player) is rebuilt, thanks to some strong arm tactics from her bionic boyfriend, Steve.

Powers: Better hearing than a dog (except for Maximillian the bionic dog), thanks to a bionic ear, and she could beat the pants off Steffi Graf, thanks to her bionic legs and right arm.

Crime-fighting uniform: Bell-bottom pants and body shirts often tied at the waist.

Overall rating: 5/10. A real hippie chick.

Points deducted for: Writing really fast on the blackboard. Jaime's a nightmare teacher who could hear everything you whispered to your friends.

#### 5. SPIDER-MAN

Also known as: Peter Parker (played by Nicholas Hammond). Occupation: A reporter for the New York Bugle.

How he got to be a superhero: Young Peter was bitten by a mutant spider and took on some of its arachnid qualities.

Powers: Strength and awesome climbing ability.

Crime-fighting uniform: Red-and-blue outfit that is equipped with a webshooter.

Overall rating: 4/10. Spiders are more creepy than heroic. Points deducted for: The fact that he didn't choose a more appealing creature from which to take powers.

#### 6. WONDER WOMAN

Also known as: Diana Prince (played by Lynda Carter).

Occupation: A secretary for the Inter-Agency Defense Command.

How she got to be a superhero: Wonder Woman comes from Paradise Island, a mysterious place in the Bermuda Triangle

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populated by superfit Amazonian-type women. She decides to leave her island home to help the Allies beat the Nazis during World War 2 and decides to stick around. Powers: Your standard speed, strength and agility plus a magic lasso and a pair of bracelets that repel bullets. Crime-fighting uniform: A red-and-blue outfit accessorised with gold belt, headpiece, bracelets and boots. Overall rating: 6/10. A strapless suit is totally impractical when one has to run, jump and somersault. Points deducted for: Despite her super powers, she never rose higher than a typist, and was outclassed as a Hollywood star by her sister, Wonder Girl (played by Debra Winger).

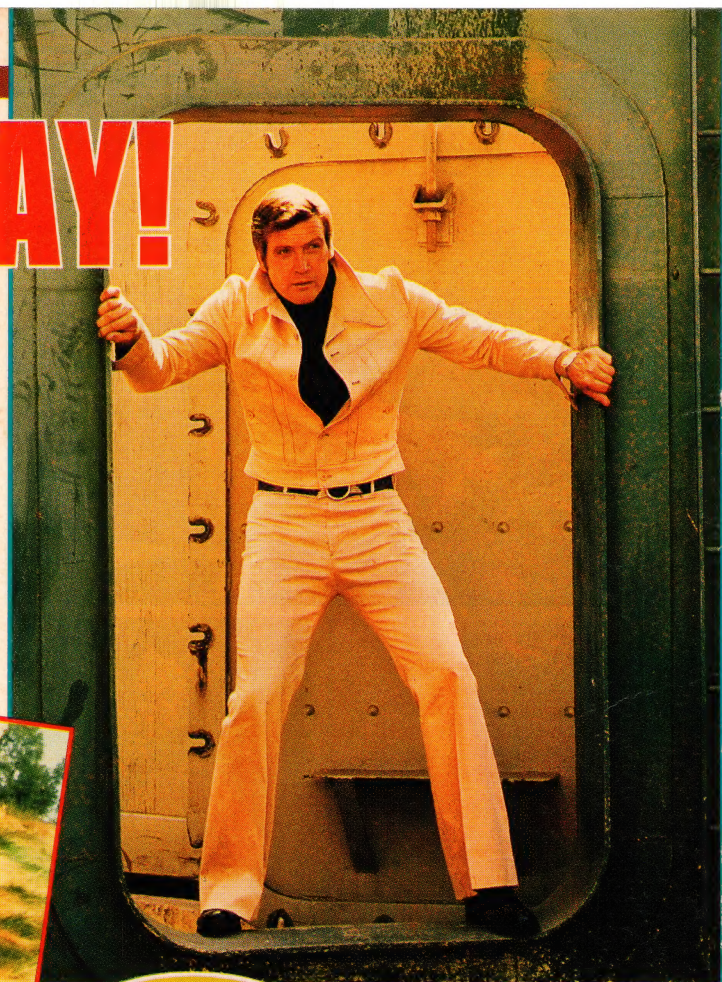
## 7. THE INCREDIBLE HULK

Also known as: Dr David Banner (played by Bill Bixby and Lou Ferrigno)

● Lee Majors (top) and Lindsay Wagner (right) never topped their bionic roles, while Atlantan Patrick Duffy moved to Dallas.



Occupation: Research scientist. How he got to be a superhero: David is dosed by gamma radiation during a bomb test. Powers: When he gets angry he metamorphoses into the Hulk, he is driven by rage but is law-abiding and uses his strength only against villains. Crime-fighting uniform: Shredded trousers that are a couple of sizes too small. Overall rating: 2/10. For the Incredible Hulk, every day



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can breathe underwater, too. Crime-fighting uniform: Shorts or a swimming costume. Overall rating: 7/10. How can you fault Bobby Ewing in a pair of bathers? Points deducted for: Making a whole generation of kids try to swim like a demented dolphin.

## 9. MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS

Also known as: One of the biggest merchandising blitzes in the history of television. Occupation: Just your average teenagers. How they got to be superheroes: Zordon, a good guy who is pitted in a battle with the evil Rita Repulsa, decides to assemble a team of warriors to stop her from taking over the Earth. He finds them at a suburban mall and trains them to fight intergalactic scum. Powers: All six Power Rangers possess special Ninja fighting skills. They also have fighting

vehicles called Zords. Crime-fighting uniform: Each Ranger wears a lycra suit, with matching helmet, in red, black, pink, blue, yellow or white.

Overall rating: 7/10. Too color co-ordinated for words. Points deducted for: Dressing too much like Spider-Man.

## 10. THE GREATEST AMERICAN HERO

Also known as: Ralph Hinkley (played by William Katt). Occupation: Schoolteacher. How he got to be a superhero: Ralph had an encounter with an alien spaceship in the Californian desert and was given a suit that endowed him with super powers. Powers: Unfortunately he lost the instruction manual that came with the suit and has to figure out how to use his powers of flight, invisibility and X-ray vision by trial and error. Crime-fighting uniform: A red suit. Overall rating: 4/10. Superheroes shouldn't bumble. Points deducted for: That out-of-control, curly Shirley Temple hairstyle and that annoyingly catchy theme song, Believe It Or Not.

Kathy Campbell

is a bad hair day. Points deducted for: Looking like a muscle-bound avocado. All brawn, no brains.

## 8. THE MAN FROM ATLANTIS

Also known as: Mark Harris (played by Patrick Duffy). Occupation: Scientific oddity. How he got to be a superhero: Mark was found washed up on the beach one day and taken to the Foundation for Oceanic Research, where his unique abilities were used for the good of mankind. Powers: His webbed hands and feet and unique swimming style allow him to cut through the water quicker than Kieren Perkins. He

